

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 33-39 have been amended. New claims 42-45 have been added. The amendments to the claims and the new claims are supported by at least Figure 10 of the present application. No new matter has been added.

Objections and §112 Rejections

The Abstract of the application was objected to for several formality issues. The original Abstract has been replaced with a new Abstract that addresses the formality issues.

Claim 39 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 34-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 34-39 have been amended to include correct claim dependencies. Claims 34-41 are now definite.

§102/§103 Rejections

Claims 33 and 38-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Wilson (US 6,165,195). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Wilson discloses with reference to Figures 27A-B, 28 and 32 a catheter that includes a catheter body 90, first and second expandable members 91, 92 that reside side-by-side in a Y-shaped arrangement. A locking ring 93 holds together distal ends of the expandable members 91, 92 until just prior to using the catheter when the ring 93 is removed. Guidewire lumens 95, 98 extend through the expandable members 91, 92, respectively, and through the catheter body 90. The catheter body 90 and expandable members 91, 92 are a single piece, continuous member.

Wilson fails to disclose or suggest a first balloon disposed about a first guide wire lumen and a second balloon disposed about a second guide wire lumen, the "first balloon having a proximal portion bonded in fluid communication with the inflation lumen at the distal end region

of the elongate catheter body" and the "second balloon having a proximal portion bonded in fluid communication with the inflation lumen at the distal end region of the elongate catheter body," as required by claim 33. The catheter disclosed by Wilson does not include proximal portions of the expandable members 91, 92 bonded in fluid communication with an inflation lumen of the stent body 90. Further, Wilson fails to disclose or suggest that bonding of first and second balloons in fluid communication with an inflation lumen is possible or desired. Therefore, Wilson fails to disclose or suggest every limitation of claim 33 and the claims that depend from it.

Claims 34-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As discussed above, Wilson fails to disclose or suggest every limitation of claim 33. Therefore, claims 34-37 are allowable for at least the reason they are dependent upon an allowable base claim. Applicant does not otherwise concede the correctness of this rejection.

Further to the above, Wilson separately fails to disclose or suggest the limitations of claims 34-37. While Wilson discloses a locking ring 93, this ring is used for a very different purpose than the disc of claims 34-37. The locking ring 93 is mounted to the distal ends of the expandable members 91, 92. The locking ring 93 provides a limited function of holding the distal ends of members 91, 92 together until the catheter is ready for use, at which time it is removed. Therefore, the locking ring 93 is not a part of the catheter when it is being used, such as during inflation of the expandable members 91, 92. The rejection asserts that it is well known to use sealing rings at distal and proximal ends of a balloon to sealing attach the balloon to the catheter body. However, the Examiner has not provided a teaching in the art of the feature as recited in claims 34-37. Therefore, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established.

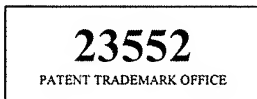
New Claims

New claim 42 is supported by at least the limitations of original claims 33-37. The prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest the use of a disc to provide a sealed connection of the first balloon and the second balloon to the inflation lumen as required by claim 42.

New claims 43-45 are supported by at least original claims 33-37 and Figure 10. The prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest sealing engaging together the proximal portions of the first and second balloon, and sealingly engaging the proximal portions of the first and second balloons within a distal end opening of the inflation lumen to provide fluid communication between the inflation lumen and the first and second balloons. Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of new claims 42-45.

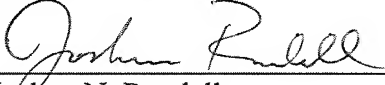
In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance. If a phone conference would be helpful in resolving any further issues related to this matter, please contact Applicants' attorney listed below at 612-371-5387.

Respectfully submitted,



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